

I have incredibly strong views in regards to our public airways being used to push one political agenda versus another. I especially have a strong aversion towards what I consider to be an ongoing smear campaign (by any and all means possible) by Republicans who are willing to win regardless of any obscene tactics (i.e. the whisper campaign against one of their own, the Swift Boat which told outright lies about Kerry's service in Vietnam, etc.). Once again it is impossible to pin this on the Bushites. But that shouldn't matter. It is clearly wrong (given the current policies of the FCC) to use the public airways to trumpet one political agenda over all others. Let me remind you that "God is not a Democrat or a Republican." This simply means that we cannot choose sides as if there is one group that is right...as in the religious RIGHT and everyone else is just wrong, wrong, wrong. It is this attitude that has so polarized the country. Because if someone else is wrong there is indeed nothing to discuss. End of discussion. And a democracy is based on an ongoing dialog. Democracy needs to capture all conversations and distill these down into core values and ultimately commitments. But airing political diatribe and opinion as if it were truth stops any meaningful interchange. One is allowed to do this from a pulpit. But a radio station...the public air waves isn't a pulpit. Please do not allow it to become the far Right's bully pulpit, just because a business happens to own the equipment on which the message is broadcast. Because then we have ultimately relinquished the public's RIGHT (the greatest right of a democracy) to unbiased information. Thank you and God Bless.

From Rebecca L. Stack
Business owner--20 years
Very involved citizen
Mother of two boys--my treasures!

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.